I

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS

Irrigation

Estimated cost of the Vempadu channel extension schemes.

*1826 Q.—Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) what is the cost of the Vempadu channel extension scheme in Kistna Eastern delta;

(b) how much the ryots have offered to pay; and

(c) what is the estimated annual income from the lands to be irrigated under the scheme?

A.—(a) Rs. 1,05,000 for 'works.'

(b) The area proposed to be brought under irrigation is 4,511 acres, and the ryots (except the owners of 163 acres of land in Tenneru village) are reported to be willing to pay an inclusion fee of Rs. 25 per acre.

(c) A report has been called for on the revenue and financial aspects of the scheme.

Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao:—"May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that the ryots have given an undertaking to pay the inclusion fees as soon as they are called upon to pay?"

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks:—"It is stated in the answer itself that they are reported to be willing to pay the inclusion fee."

Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao:—"May I know, whether they have given an undertaking?"

The hon Sir Norman Marjoribanks:—"I am not aware of the exact terms of the undertaking. The report says that they are willing to pay."

Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao:—"May I know, Sir, that in view of the fact that the ryots have agreed to pay practically the whole of the cost whether the Government is willing to construct the scheme during the year 1929-30?"

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks:—"I would refer the hon. Member to the answer to clause (c). It all depends on the report. If the report is favourable the Government will ask for a supplementary grant."

Mr. K. V. R. Swami:—"Is it not a fact that the sum of Rs. 1,05,000 was arrived at after preparing an estimate?"

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks:—"Yes, Sir."

Mr. K. V. R. Swami:—"May I know where the necessity for a report arises when there is the estimate giving the acreage and the estimated cost?"

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks:—"We want to know whether the scheme is likely to be a paying one."

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Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government are going to collect the usual water-rate ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANAS :—" Presumably so. At present we are awaiting a report from the Revenue officials and it remains to be seen whether there are any other objections."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, the nature of the other kinds of objections?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" There may be other vested interests which may be affected by the proposal which have to be considered."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" If there are no objections, will the Government be pleased to expedite the scheme ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" Most certainly, Sir. There is no objection." (Laughter.)

Purchase of machinery and plant for the Mettur Project.

* 1827 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state, with reference to my question No. 1560 of the 28th February 1929, the details of the machinery and plant ordered for the Mettur Project since the date of the report on the Mettur Deputation printed with G.O. No. 2616 I., dated the 19th October 1928, their cost and the firms from which they were ordered ?

A.—The information asked for is given in the statement attached.[a]

Mr. J. A SALDANHA :—" With reference to the appendix printed on page 7, may I know, Sir, whether there is any policy or principle in regard to the purchase of machinery more especially before ordering from firms outside India, whether advertisements are inserted in the Public Press in India ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" Notice."

Mr. L. K. TULASIRAM :—" May I know, Sir, whether tenders were called for before the purchase of the machinery for the Mettur Project ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" Notice, Sir."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" With reference to the item 24 in the appendix, may I know whether the Mysore Government manufacture these things or whether it is a second-hand machine which this Government has undertaken to buy from the Mysore Government ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I cannot say anything for certain. I think that they bought it from others."

Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI :—" May I know whether none of the items in the list is manufactured by Tatas ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" Notice, Sir."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I know whether the Government have not laid down any principle or practice as how to order, how to advertise and how to call for tenders, etc., in a matter where so many lakhs of rupees are spent ? "

[a] Printed as Appendix I on pages 709-710 infra.